Children in the pandemic

The coronavirus pandemic continues to deeply affect the lives of children and young people. Their quality of life and mental health suffer under the restrictions.

Studies confirm:

- Psychological complaints, behavioural problems, stress and anxiety have strongly increased among children and adolescents due to the pandemic.

- Children and young people are impaired in their cognitive, emotional and social development.

- Symptoms such as excess weight due to lack of exercise and an unhealthy diet, sleep disorders and headaches are becoming increasingly common.

Important to know

In Austria, there are about 600,000 children aged between 5 and 11. In the period from the beginning of July 2021 to mid-January 2022, 11.5 percent of all SARS-CoV-2 infections confirmed in Austria affected children in this age group. About half (51.65 percent) fell ill with COVID-19. (Source: AGES)

Get vaccinated now!

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for detailed information on getting the vaccine.
Register at: impfen.gv.at

More information

(also multilingual) is available on our website
sozialministerium.at/corona-schutzimpfung

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Why it is important to have your child vaccinated!

The Omicron variant is more contagious than previous variants. The vaccination protects children from 5 years of age against COVID-19.

- Compared to other childhood diseases, COVID-19 currently occurs much more frequently. Kindergarten children and school children have an increased risk of contracting the coronavirus.
- Children with pre-existing conditions (e.g. asthma, obesity) are particularly at risk.
- Vaccination is generally recommended for children 5 years and older. For children from 5 to 11 years there is a separate children’s vaccine from BioNTech/Pfizer.
- For a first vaccination protection, children get two vaccinations at intervals of three weeks. For 12- to-17-year-olds, a third vaccination is also recommended from 6 months after the second vaccination.

Your child’s safety comes first!

Strictly controlled studies have confirmed the efficacy and safety of the coronavirus vaccination for children. The vaccine protects against:

- The COVID-19 disease.
- Late effects of COVID-19 (e.g. exhaustion, headaches, sleep disorders, lack of concentration), which can also occur after mild or asymptomatic courses.
- After the vaccination you should rest for three days and refrain from doing sports for a week.
- As with other vaccinations, vaccination reactions such as redness or hardening at the site of the vaccination, headache, tiredness or fever may occur – these usually go away on their own after a few days.

Vaccinations are a success story!

Vaccinations are one of the greatest achievements of medicine. They save lives and prevent millions of deaths every year as a result of life-threatening diseases.

- Vaccinations successfully push back serious childhood diseases (such as smallpox).
- Vaccinations protect and ensure the healthy growth of children.
- Check your child’s vaccination status regularly and don’t forget other important childhood vaccinations!

Important to know

It is for you and your child to decide whether your child should be vaccinated. Give children the opportunity to ask questions themselves at the vaccination appointment!

Important to know

Children who have been infected can transmit the virus to others, even if they show no disease symptoms.

For children:

The story of Klara’s COVID-19 vaccination